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REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are all the claims pending in the application and stand rejected. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTIONS.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,442,474 to Huang et al. ("Huang"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

The Office Action alleges Huang discloses a switch receiving a packet of binary digital signals "as encoded binary digital signals." It appears that the Office Action either infers that the Huang binary digital signals are either "encoded" by virtue of their simply being in binary form (pg. 3, ll. 2 and pg. 8 ll. 9 of the 11/2/04 Final Office Action) or alternatively by virtue of their being multiplexed (Id. at pg. 2, last par.) .

Applicant addresses the inappropriateness of both possible interpretations as follows. First, Applicant clearly distinguishes in the claim language itself that that packets of "binary digital signals" are received as "encoded binary digital signals." If, as alleged in the Office Action, encoding is performed simply by virtue of transforming information into binary representation (0's and 1's), Applicant begs the question, where then is decoding (i.e., transforming information from binary representation) performed in the switch of Huang (see, e.g., claim 2). Applicant respectfully submits it is not because the switch of Huang does not deal with encoded binary digital signals and thus is not analogous to the methods or integrated circuits claimed by Applicant.

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For improved understanding of "encoding" of binary digital signals as used in the context of the pending claims, Applicant refers the Examiner to page 9, ll. 4-15 of the instant specification which discusses various encoding techniques such as Manchester encoding and the like. Accordingly, simple representation of information in binary form is not analogous to "encoded" binary digital signals as claimed by Applicant.

As far as multiplexed binary signals being considered "encoded" binary digital signals, Applicant respectfully submits there is simply no evidence to support such an assertion. The skilled artisan readily recognizes that multiplexing/demultiplexing is not analogous to encoding/decoding or visa versa. Further, even under this interpretation, the technique disclosed by Huang is not for routing encoded packets through a network (of various switches and devices) in its encoded form, as claimed by Applicant but rather to demultiplex a multiplexed data stream it respective sub channels, which are never encoded. Simply put, there is no encoding or decoding disclosed by Huang whatsoever. Accordingly, there can be no teaching or suggestion of at least the following additional features of Applicant's claims:

> *copying said bit pattern, at least for decoding* (claim 1);
>
> *decoding the copied encoded binary digital signals* (claim 2);
>
> *deserializing the decoded binary digital signal* (claim 3); or
>
> *translating the deserialezed and decoded binary digital signals* (claim 4) or similar

limitations in the remaining pending claims.

In the 11/2/04 Final Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the received binary digital signal is "decoded" by node 500. Applicant respectfully submits, it is demuxed by node 500, as opposed decoded. Again, if switch 500 is interpreted to decode binary digital signals by virtue of demultiplexing, it certainly cannot be interpreted to route the packet through the network in its encoded form since clearly, the outputs of switch 500 are demuxed signals.
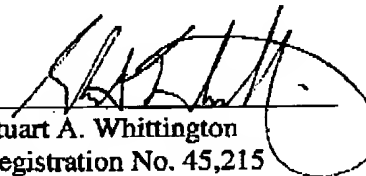
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Applicant agrees that Huang does disclose a self routing optical switching node but would point out that it does not deal with the issues of whether encoders should be included in a network switch since the received multiplexed data stream does not contain encoded digital signals.

Since Huang fails to teach or suggest routing the packet through the network in its encoded form, which is present in all independent claims 1, 10, 17, 22 and 25 Huang cannot anticipate Applicant's claims. Further since Huang does not disclose decoding copied encoded binary digital signals many of Applicant's dependent claims are separately and additionally patentable over Huang. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of record is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee or deficiency thereof, except for the Issue Fee, is to be charged to **Deposit Account # 50-0221.**

Respectfully submitted,

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c/o
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Date: February 2, 2005

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